

**METHODS OF DIAGNOSING LIVER FIBROSIS****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides a method of  
5 diagnosing the presence or severity of liver fibrosis in  
an individual by detecting  $\alpha$ 2-macroglobulin ( $\alpha$ 2-MG) in a  
sample from the individual; detecting hyaluronic acid  
(HA) in a sample from the individual; detecting tissue  
inhibitor of metalloproteinases-1 (TIMP-1) in a sample  
10 from the individual; and diagnosing the presence or  
severity of liver fibrosis in the individual based on the  
presence or level of  $\alpha$ 2-MG, HA and TIMP-1.